

School Business – July 10, 2020

Exceptional Children Division News

COVID-19 FUNDING - PRC 132

The following information has been shared with local Directors/Coordinators of Exceptional Children:

The 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act provided funding to support extraordinary costs associated with providing future services (those unable to be delivered through remote learning or school building closures, including completion of assessments), Extended School Year or Compensatory Services, as appropriate for exceptional children who qualify for these services due to the impacts of COVID-19.

All Public School Units (PSUs) are eligible to apply for this funding. The maximum amount available to each LEA is determined proportionally based on the April 2020 child count. The attached document details the maximum funding each PSU is eligible for. PSUs may apply for any amount not to exceed the maximum funding they are eligible for. Any remaining funds will be distributed proportionally based on need.

The attached Chart of Accounts (COA) details allowable expenditures with these funds. Note, as these are state funds, submission of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) is not required. Budgets and expenditures will be monitored for appropriate use, and these funds are subject to review during desk audits and monitoring visits. Once received, these funds must be expended by December 31, 2020.

Please complete [this application](#) to apply for this funding. **Applications are due by close of business on July 13th.** Award notifications will begin on July 17th with funds allotted in the next allotment revision following this date.

Information about submission of this application is available here:

<https://www.smore.com/z92w8>

TSI PRC 115 Funding – CORRECTION

The period of availability for remaining PRC 115 funds has been extended. The new final encumbrance date is September 30, 2021 with a final liquidation date of December 31, 2021. As a reminder, these are funds that were allocated to schools with the Targeted School Improvement (TSI) designation. 80% of these funds were liquidated in December 2019 but districts were allowed to carryover 20% of the initial allotment.

Please submit carryover budgets for PRC 115 no later than **July 31, 2020**. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Melissa Nixon at melissa.nixon@dpi.nc.gov.

Unemployment Benefits – Reasonable Assurance or “Between Terms”

Thank you for your emails regarding reasonable assurance claims. You are correct to continue and request the denial of unemployment benefits when an employee is “between terms,” with reasonable assurance the employee will return to school in the Fall semester. I have had

numerous conversations with the Department of Employment Security (DES), due to your overwhelming concerns and the inconsistencies in their decisions to award employees unemployment benefits. I continue to advise that you request denial of unemployment benefits for "between terms" and appeal claims where benefits have been awarded. For most of you this is a tremendous amount of work and staff is not available to assist. Where you find the appeals become unmanageable, I suggest you contact DES and ask them for guidance.

DES does not deny that they are short staffed. It is the responsibility of every employee, who received reasonable assurance from their employer, NOT to apply for unemployment benefits. At some point, DES may find the wage inconsistencies and the employee will be responsible to return the paid unemployment benefits.

Thanks to all of you who are working so diligently. Please let me know if you have other concerns where I can help. Eileen Townsend, Chief of Insurance, eileen.townsend@dpi.nc.gov, 984-236-2903.

UPDATE - 2020 Statewide Facility Needs Survey

The 2020 FNS will be released on **Friday, July 31, 2020**. Completed surveys are due back to DPI on **Friday, October 30, 2020**. Preliminary questions about the 2020 FNS should be directed to Nathan Maune, AIA (School Planning Section Chief) via email: nathan.maune@dpi.nc.gov.

Home Base – NCEES News

PowerSchool Upcoming Maintenance 7/11-12/2020 will affect NCEES Access

This maintenance only affects the NC Educator Effectiveness System (PowerSchool Perform Enterprise and Professional Learning) (NCEES). It does not affect the access status of the PowerSchool Student Information System (SIS).

"On Saturday, July 11th, starting at 8:00 am PDT (11:00AM EST) and ending Sunday, July 12th, at 4:00 pm PDT (7:00PM EST), PowerSchool will be performing infrastructure upgrades in preparation for the new school year. These improvements will provide PowerSchool with additional capacity to handle increased system usage due to COVID-19. During this time, users may experience system inaccessibility or degraded performance. In addition, there may be disruption in regularly scheduled processes including imports, exports, and email. PowerSchool Support advises that data should not be entered, imported, or updated during this time."

NCDPI is also recommending that NCEES users not access the system on Saturday, July 11th (11:00AM EST) through Sunday, July 12th (7:00PM EST). NCDPI will send out a communication when NCEES (TNL) Person Imports are processed successfully after this scheduled maintenance.

PSUs should plan on being able to access NCEES to set plan types, access rights, etc. on or after Tuesday, July 14, 2020. This is to ensure all Staff UID records are up to date and have processed into the TNL Person Import file for the updates for staff location, roles and active status in NCEES to be as close to current as possible. PSU Administrators, please work closely with your HR & Payroll to ensure staff are inactivated and activated in NCDPI Staff UID as

soon as possible. Staff that remain active with previous employer district may have issues with which location an assigned evaluation or Professional Development plan is connected to.

Click here: [NCEES Data v7](#) for an updated listing of Staff budget/payroll codes and roles that will provision staff into NCEES. A new budget code and role has been added to the list for Chart of Accounts' object code 128 - Re-employed Retired Teacher (Teacher Evaluation Rubric). Additional information on this role will be communicated soon.

Any changes to the above expected dates will be communicated by NCDPI promptly.

Timing of UID Export Uploads to Staff UID System

As a reminder, there should be a timely and accurate exchange of data between the PSU payroll system and the Staff UID System. This includes any new staff members who need access to K-12 related systems (i.e. PowerSchool, Schoolnet, NCEES, etc.). Additionally, new staff that have been hired but who are not yet receiving a paycheck can be added to the payroll system, and subsequently included in the Staff UID export file to receive a UID. Non-payroll staff members who work with a PSU but are not entered into the payroll system can still be added to the Staff UID System, via the 'Add Staff' feature. Documentation for adding non-payroll staff to the Staff UID System can be found at

<https://files.nc.gov/dpi/documents/UID/acquiring-uid-for-non-payroll-staff.pdf>.

Click here to access the [Staff UID](#) site.

NCDPI will send an update communication when the PowerSchool maintenance is complete and the NCEES site is fully accessible.

Reminders

- Instructional Start and End Dates for School Year 2020-2021 – LEAs Only
Due TODAY July 10, 2020. Details are in the June 26, 2020 newsletter. *
- July PSBCF and NBPSCF Lottery Distribution Requests - Due **July 22, 2020**
Details are in the June 26, 2020 newsletter. *

* <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services/school-district-finance-operations/procedures-and-guidance#newsletter>



Public Schools of North Carolina
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